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THE EDGE

The Voice of Integrity
at Fort Hays State University

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Hypnotized



BRANDON WOLF/THE EDGE

Stage hypnotist Frederick Winters works with his volunteers during his comedy hypnotism sketch Monday night at Beach-Schmidt. "This was my first time, and I really enjoyed it," said Senior Heather Weillert. "I couldn't believe some of the things he made them do, and they did them as if everything was real."

\$1.06 fee increase set for student vote Wednesday

Zach Becker
Editor

On Wednesday and Thursday, students will get the chance to approve or disapprove a proposed \$1.06 per credit hour increase in student fees.

Students will get to vote on the referendum in the Memorial Union.

Student fees are distributed to student groups through the allocations process, which was completed last week for the 2007-2008 school year.

Because of a decline in on-campus enrollment, money available for allocations has been going down as well, forcing SGA to make difficult cuts to

student groups.

This year, available funds were almost \$200,000 short of requests. Actual student fee money to be distributed decreased by about \$40,000 from last year's total.

"We're definitely in need of it," said SGA Senator Philip Van Horn. "There is a lot of student interest out there and we just need the money to back it. If students want to stay involved and be able to participate more, that extra 1.06 per credit hour is definitely worth it."

Because the increase is for over a dollar, SGA is required to bring it before a student vote. The potential increase amount

was calculated based on various factors, including inflation. The last student fee increase was in the Spring 1998 semester.

Van Horn believes that, if approved, the fee increase should bring allocations funding cuts back to minimal levels, although there will always be cuts because SGA is prohibited from funding things like parties and dances, awards or items intended for resale.

"It's really up to students at this point whether they want to ensure that student groups are funded through allocations or if they're forced to go another route," said SGA President Drew Thomas.

Twins born to wife of FHSU professor

Zach Becker
Editor

The stork not only arrived early, but pulled double duty when it made its stop at the Marrs' household late last month.

Heath Marrs, professor of psychology, his wife Cara and their two-and-a-half year-old son Gavin welcomed new additions Garrett David Marrs and Alana Marie Marrs to the family on February 23 at Hays Medical Center.

However, things didn't go smoothly right away for the twins, born two weeks premature and each weighing well under six pounds.

Several hours after they were delivered via cesarean section, the twins started having trouble breathing. At that point, doctors decided it best to transport them to Wesley Medical Center in Wichita to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

"They were transported on a very stormy night in an ambulance down to Wichita and then spent about a little over a week in Wichita in the ICU," Heath Marrs said. "My wife was recovering from C-section for the first couple of days so she wasn't able to be with the babies."

Heath made several trips up to Wichita during that week as Cara's mother made a trip to take care of Gavin for a week and then returned to help as Cara recovered from the birth.

After the twins were stabilized in Wichita, they were returned to Hays Medical Center.

Heath said going to the Wichita NICU really opened his eyes about that branch of medicine. At the Wichita NICU, there were about 60-70 babies, and his twins, at a mere five pounds,

SEE 'TWINS'
ON PAGE 7



COURTESY PHOTO

Two-and-a-half year-old Gavin Marrs holds his new twin brother and sister, Garrett and Alana. The children's father is Fort Hays psychology professor Heath Marrs.

EDITORIAL

Vote ‘No’ to fee increase

Students will get the chance on Wednesday and Thursday to vote on whether or not to approve a student fee increase of \$1.06 per credit hour.

For the average student enrolled in 15 credit hours, that is over \$15 per semester, over \$30 a year and over \$120 during a four year degree program.

While \$1.06 per credit hour doesn’t sound like much on its own, it obviously adds up when you do the math, especially when you consider that tuition has been seeing a gradual increase each year. Adding an additional fee will further burden already cash-strapped students.

While increasing fees is certainly the easiest solution for SGA in solving its current allocations budget crisis, it is not the best solution for the students.

Instead, SGA needs to continue to tighten up the reigns on student organization funding.

This will mean more tough decisions during allocations when SGA decides who to fund, who not to fund and how much to give each group.

While individual organizations would no doubt see more money if this referendum were approved, by keeping SGA on a tight budget, it forces both SGA and student organizations to make sure every penny counts.

Also, it encourages student organizations to use their ingenuity to find new ways to raise money independently from student fees.

While SGA might quote the effect of inflation on the buying power of student fee money over the years, inflation also effects how much it costs students to live. With gas, tuition, and other prices on the rise, students don’t need another fee increase.

Vote “No” on the student fee increase referendum.

-Zach Becker
for The Editorial Board

OPINION

With spring’s arrival, time to get in shape

The sunshine and thunderstorms are here. It’s spring in Kansas! While there is not much to do with the rain and thunder except sit inside and enjoy it, the sun offers many possibilities.

First and foremost, you should probably find yourself outside more often as the temperatures rise. You’ve just had several months of reality TV and potato chips from the comfort of your couch. Find a friend and go for a walk. Buy a bike.

Biking is a great way to socialize and exercise, but you probably don’t even realize the greatest benefit of the bike: sleep! Riding to class in the mornings saves time and could well mean an extra bashing of the snooze button each morning.

It’s easy to joke about fitness, even easier to talk about doing it, but at some point, you should actually try it. Summer is coming up. Do you really want to go back home carrying all that extra baggage? Your bodies have adjusted well to the high-calorie cafeteria food and weekend carbohydrate consumption, but even your true friends back home will laugh behind your widened back. Spring is the time to set everything back on track.

You have access to a free weight room.



Mike Courson
Staff Writer

Use it. Should you decide to workout post-college, you will have to pay. It’s not much, but when you’re paying for that new car, those student loans, maybe even a kid or two, it’s easy to put your body on the low-priority list. Getting in shape now, while it’s free, might motivate you to a healthier lifestyle in the future. Besides, the gym is a great place to meet the opposite sex. Just remember: no hernias trying to impress that cute girl on the stair-stepper. The only downside is that you have to bring your own music. Evidently, not everyone likes to listen to Twisted Spleen Applesauce while working out.

Keep the whole workout idea in mind when you see the girl in the halter top and short shorts walking to class and catching the eye of every guy. Don’t envy her, be her. Maybe she pigs out

and has never touched a weight, but you’re only hurting yourself if you use that as an excuse not to do it yourself. And girls like her don’t date guys with guts like yours. Make it disappear!

On the topic of short shorts and tank tops, please use the sun, maybe even an alternative if you must, before busting out your summer gear. Yes, we live in America, and you can wear what you’d like, but there is nothing more distracting than a ghost in revealing clothes. Well, except the tan girl on the other side of the room wearing the same thing.

All joking aside, what could be more serious than your health? You are probably not as active as you were as a child. That’s a choice, and one you can change at that. Still, your body has changed, and you may have to work a little harder to stay as fit. Believe me, it’s worth it mentally and physically. It’s like the guy who needs glasses. He thinks he can see, then puts on his glasses and sees a new world.

And for you romantics, it’s been proven that couples who work out together stay together longer. I say skip that movie and go for a bike ride. Then watch the movie. Just be sure to shower in between.

McMindes cafeteria food could use improvements



Jeremy Scott Lovin
Staff Writer

Those living in the dorms probably eat at the school’s McMindes cafeteria service, which is brought to you by Chartwells. The people working there are some of the nicest I’ve ever met, but the food could use some work.

For example, does anyone remember the time last fall when they served nothing but casseroles for three weeks in a row? Yuck! I ate more peanut butter sandwiches during that three weeks than I ever did in grade school.

I don’t know what everybody else likes, but I need solid food after a long day of classes. Another area that needs improvement is the pizza. While the pizza has lots of toppings and a good deal of cheese, the sauce they put on it is practically tasteless. The cheap pizza sauce is so plain it ruins the whole pizza.

The Chinese food now offered during lunch and dinner hours has been a nice addition to the menu, but what about the egg rolls or other side dishes to go with it? I mean, who eats Chinese food without an egg roll?

Granted, I know Chartwells does have to deal with overly zealous health regulations, but they could still do better. In some cases low fat food doesn’t make a

difference with the taste, but in other instances, some of their low fat ingredients can really spoil an otherwise good meal.

Case in point; low fat mayonnaise. In my opinion, mayonnaise is supposed to have a rich zany taste, but the mayonnaise Chartwells serves tastes like straight vinegar.

Also, I really like chocolate milk; however, there’s no way I’m going to settle for chocolate skim milk. I can barely stomach two-percent as it is.

However, the thing that probably irks me the most is the size of the glasses in the cafeteria.

The idea is that students will drink less if you give them smaller glasses. But all it does is add hassle for the student because they have to get refills at about three times the rate of a normal-sized glass.

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NEWS

Allocations budget finalized Twins

Zach Becker
Editor

The 2007-2008 Student Government Association allocations budget was finalized last week after being approved by the full senate.

This year, SGA had \$431,000 in student fee money to distribute among 40 campus groups requesting funds.

About 200 students attended the meeting, which lasted over four hours and was broadcasted live on KFHS TV.

At the meeting, an open forum was provided for students to speak on behalf of their organizations.

Although senators proposed several changes to the preliminary budget at the meeting, only one minor change was approved.

The change, approved unanimously, moved \$171 dollars from Rodeo Club to the appropriations fund.

“I thought that the process

went pretty well,” said SGA President Drew Thomas.

“It was one of the first times I think everybody in senate has actually got the chance to say their peace on any given issue, so I think we had good healthy debate.”

“Unfortunately we couldn’t fund everybody this year, but that is kind of the nature of the process.”

In fact, 12 groups were denied allocations funding, although most were directed to request SGA appropriations fund money or SGA equipment fund money next year.

Groups can receive up to \$1,000 for trips or events from the appropriations fund and up to \$1500 from the equipment fund (although SGA will match dollar-for-dollar equipment funds requests over \$1,500 up to \$10,000).

“I feel that everyone on senate was fair with their voting and

with the recommendations they made,” said SGA senator Phillip Van Horn, who thought the process ran very well this year.

“Senator Cole Engel did an amazing job. He is a great leader – second to none,” Van Horn said.

“He is very thorough. He looks over budgets with a keen eye. He is an accounting major so he has the experience; he knows what he is looking for. He found errors in budgets ... that none of us realized. He saved us a lot of money.”

Van Horn also noted that, because funding requests outstripped available funds by almost \$200,000, groups who did receive funds were more gracious than in years past when the difference was not so large.

“The fact that we had to cut a third of our overall requests,” Van Horn said, “(made groups think that) whatever you give us (in funding) we’re thankful for.”

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

were some of the largest babies there.

“I’m really thankful to have two healthy babies,” he said. “It was a really big learning experience for us just being in the (Wichita) ICU seeing a lot of very, very young premature babies and being thankful that ours are healthy.”

This week, Garrett was sent home, but Alana is still in the Hays NICU. She is expected to be released later this week.

“It’s been a really wild ride up to this point, but we’re thankful that they’re healthy and they’re making progress,” Marrs said.

While the arrival of the twins obviously will impact the entire Marrs’ family, two-and-a-half year-old Gavin may be in for the biggest shock once both twins make it home.

“I think he is very excited but he hasn’t really had a chance to see what it is going to be like because the twins haven’t been home yet,” Marrs said. “He’s still the only child at home, so it will be kind of fun to see how he responds when Garrett and Alana are at home and he is one of three

instead of the only child in the family.”

As for his teaching duties at Fort Hays, Marrs thought the impact of the birth was minimal and he only had to cancel four classes.

“I appreciate (students) being flexible and realizing this is kind of one of those once in a lifetime experiences where family takes priority,” he said.

Marrs is excited about the two new parenting challenges in front of him. He could even envision his children attending Fort Hays someday, if that’s what they want to do.

“Who knows what their interests are going to be and what their talents are going to be and what direction they want to take in life,” he said. “I think that is one of the exciting things about being a parent – kind of seeing where they end up.”

For now, though, Marrs and his wife are gearing up for what most certainly will be a wild ride caring for three children.

“Just having one child in the house is quite an adjustment and it’s been a lot of fun,” Marrs said. “But now we’ve gone from one to three just like that, so it’s going to be an adventure from here on out I’m sure.”

A special Beyond The Edge video feature on this story will be available later this week at www.TheOnlineEdge.net.



COURTESY PHOTO

Infant twins Garrett David Marrs and Alana Marie Marrs rest peacefully in their hospital crib.

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Sports in Brief

Tennis
The Fort Hays State tennis team played in their first home matches of the season this past weekend. Unfortunately, Missouri Southern State and Southwest Baptist did not welcome them home as the Tigers dropped both matches.

The Tigers battled hard against Missouri Southern on Friday, but were edged out by the Lions 5-4. Fort Hays State came right back out on Saturday to take on the Bearcats of Southwest Baptist, but fell in this one too by a score of 7-2. The Tigers look to get back on track as they head to Kirksville, Missouri this Saturday to face Truman State University starting at 9 a.m.

Softball
The Fort Hays State softball team competed in the Terri Zennner Memorial Softball Tournament hosted by Missouri Southern University this past weekend in Joplin, Missouri.

The Lady Tigers started the opening round out nicely with a 10-2 victory over Arkansas Tech. Coming off the win, Fort Hays State matched up with Oklahoma City University. The Stars from Oklahoma City outshined the Lady Tigers 3-0 in their second game. The next day, the Lady Tigers lost a well-fought game to University of Missouri – St. Louis, 6-5. Fort Hays State took to the field once more to play the Vikings from Augustana College. The Vikings speared the Tigers 4-2 in the final game of the tournament for Fort Hays State.

After the weekend split, the Lady Tigers are now 5-12 on the year. Fort Hays State has now won three of their last five games and will next be in action this Saturday to participate in the Emporia State University Tournament. They will face Minnesota-Crookston to open up the tournament at 2 p.m.

Baseball
The Tiger baseball team’s 10-game winning streak came to a halt with a pair of losses to Nebraska-Omaha. The Tigers beat the Mavericks in a 2-game series back in February, but managed to lose 4-3 and 4-2 in the double-header last Sunday.

Fort Hays State falls to 10-5 on the year and moves on to host Missouri Southern this week at Larks Park. The 4-game series with the Lions begins on Friday at 6 p.m. and will finish with two games on Saturday and one more on Sunday.

Track
Four individuals from Fort Hays State University received the chance to compete in the NCAA II Indoor Track and Field Championships held last weekend in Boston, Massachusetts. Out of those four, two managed to reach All-American status for the Tigers.

Newcomer Brady Maska took home seventh-place in the men’s shot put event with a throw of 55’75.” The throw was good enough to earn him the All-American title. Amanda Poore joined Maska as she placed second in the women’s high jump. Poore broke her own school record that she just set a week ago as she cleared 5’9.25.” Casey Wanger and Dan Yoder also participated in the event for the Tigers. Wanger placed tenth in the women’s pole vault with a jump of 12’75.” Yoder had a personal best time in the mile run to finish ninth overall with a time of 4:11.15.

Indoor track and field wraps up just in time for the Tigers to commence the outdoor season. Fort Hays State gets the outdoor season underway this Thursday at the Emporia State Twilight.

Wrestling
The Tiger wrestling team concluded a great season at the NCAA II Wrestling Championships last weekend. Seven Tigers went to the national tournament in Kearney, Nebraska, with three garnering All-American honors.

Senior Andrew Ubben was the only Tiger to win his first-round match but then lost his next match in the 285-pound class. Ubben was sent to the wrestle-back bracket and won out to take third-place. The three-time All-American finished the year with a 28-7 record.

Senior Mikel Delk finished his tenure at Fort Hays State with a sixth place finish in the 149-pound class. The two-time All-American finished the season with a 19-9 mark.

Fellow senior Derek Patterson wrapped up the year with an eighth-place finish in the 133-pound class. First-time All-American Patterson, ended the year with an 11-14 record.

Mike Howell, James Annon, Danny Grater and Tyler Gonzales also competed in the Championships.

Symbolically banning use of profane word foolish

This isn’t a topic I’d normally choose for one of my rants, but when I heard about it, I just couldn’t *not* write about it.

So the basic gist of the story goes like this: A while back, former *Seinfeld* cast member Michael Richards (i.e. “Kramer”) was heard frothing at the beak when he apparently dropped the N-bomb (a racial slur) while doing his stand-up routine at a comedy club in Los Angeles.

Okay, big freakin’ deal.

At least they think it is in New York City (surprise!). Look out, here comes the idiot train again, carrying the Political Correctness flag. I can hear Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton just salivating over the opportunity to “condemn” the atrocity (or should I say travesty?).

Long story short; the City of New York City decided this week to “symbolically ban” the use of that word because of it’s inherent meaning and purported historical stigma.

Granted, the word is quite foul when you get down to it. However, the real half of the matter is that “banning” its use is a joke.

Brandon Worf
Staff Writer

The City Council placed a moratorium on its use, which essentially is them saying, “We don’t like you using it, so we’re going to tell you not to use it, but not really do anything about it.” Mind you, this isn’t legitimate legislation (we hope it never gets that bad), and if you’re “caught” using it, well ... they can’t do anything about it anyways.

This was passed shortly after the New York state senate and state assembly adopted resolutions doing the same thing - a hollow and extremely pointless measure. They’re even going so far as to encourage the Recording Academy to, “not nominate musicians for Grammy Awards who use the word in their lyrics.” Well, too bad for

Fifty Cent, though I doubt he cares any more so than Chris Rock does.

Simply put, this is a retarded, moronic waste of taxpayer money and trust. Instead of fixing legitimate problems at hand (such as the massive health problems arising from toxic dust at Ground Zero), New York City is embarking on an over-glorified “etiquette campaign” to make it seem like a simple word is going to be the end-all of society. I can’t wait until Arnold Schwarzenegger takes up the reins in California and tries to do the exact same thing in a legislative sense (thereby once again rendering the state of California the most illegitimate and insane state in the nation).

To quote *The Edge* editor Zach Becker; “Hey morons, this is Earth calling!” Instead of wasting our tax money on worrying about what a group of kids in the ‘hood (or former television stars) are spouting, let’s put that money to more practical uses - like, you know, trying not to run this country into the ground. For every million we blow on trying to keep people from being “out of line” with their verbiage, we could

easily help out people who are still homeless after hurricane Katrina.

Some might consider this an attempt to curtail racism - and that has its importance and merit - but helping those who suffer from *serious* issues seems to be a more pressing case of reality—you know, things like *poverty*. Issues like education, health care, violent crime, and the illegitimate war on terror/war in Iraq tend to rank up there pretty high, too.

Lastly, there’s also that nagging little thing we like to refer to as the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Regardless of the word’s nature, it’s still protected. Banning the use of a single word is censorship, symbolically or otherwise - *period*.

Government institutions have no authority to ban use of a word or phrase, regardless of what it is, or what it means. To be cliché, it’s freedom of speech, and freedom of speech means freedom of expression.

Now if we could just symbolically ban stupidity, we’d be one step closer to sanity.

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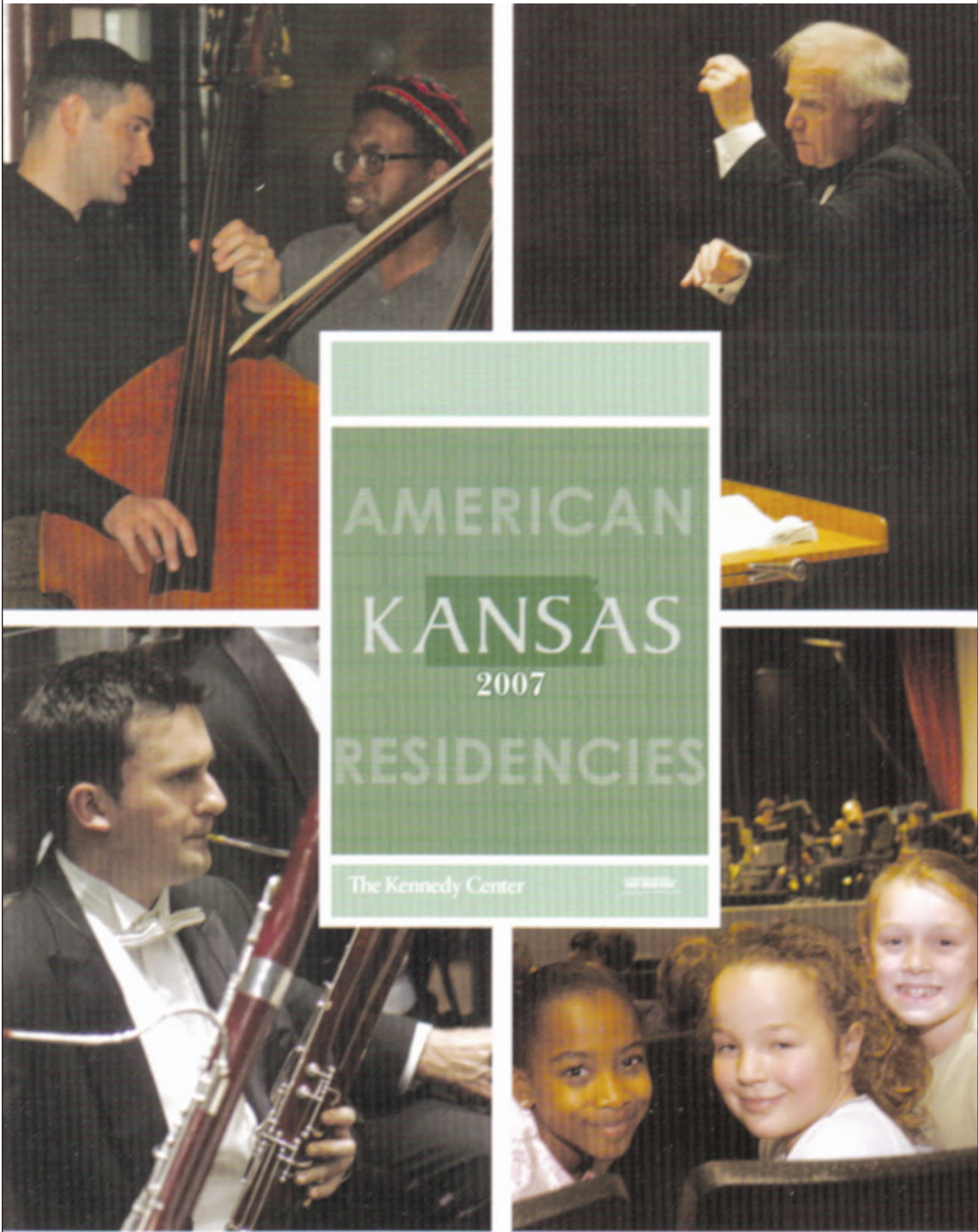
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BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
Fort Hays State students run through an inflatable device set up in the quad on March 7 as part of the Greek Week festivities.

SGA looks at
absentee policy

Zach Becker
Editor

While the allocations process may be over, SGA senators are still working to promote student interests. One area being evaluated is the absentee policy on campus. Or, more specifically, the lack of any type of universal policy when it comes to student absences from class.

Senator Phillip Van Horn said the problem first came to his attention when two students told him of a situation they were having in class.

“There were two girls with chronic illnesses who approached me and said, ‘Hey, we have experienced severe grade loss because we’ve had to miss class and our teachers do not accept our absences,’” Van Horn said. “This is an issue because student shouldn’t be penalized for having to be gone for a legitimate excuse like an illness.”

After exploring the issue further, Van Horn found that some

athletes were also receiving unexcused absences when postseason play forced them to miss midterms or finals.

While missing a day might not be a big deal in one class, in another class students might risk failing by missing even just one day. And that kind of inconsistency is what bothers Van Horn, even though there is a portion of the student handbook that outlines student absences.

He does have some solutions, though. One is for faculty to senate to work on writing out a universal policy to be applied in all classrooms. Another solution Van Horn suggests is having instructors flag classes that require near-100 percent attendance in order to pass.

“It’s water that’s never been tread on before and I think we can find a solution and develop a policy that may not be 100 percent uniform but is at least more uniform than the policy right now,” Van Horn said.

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▼ Washington Days

Clinton makes trip to Kansas, delivers speech

Brandie Johnson
Staff Writer

Former President Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker for the Kansas Democratic Party’s annual Washington Days in Topeka.

More than 1,500 were in attendance at the Ramada Inn in Topeka on March 2 for a chance to listen to what Clinton had to say. Clinton last attended Washington Days in 1988 while serving as Arkansas governor.

“I must’ve bombed. They waited 19 years to ask me back,” he joked.

Clinton touched on the Democratic victory last year. In reference to the moderate Republicans switching parties in the 2006 elections, Clinton told Kansas Democrats that they changed the political landscape. Former Republican Paul Morrison switched to the Democratic party, defeating Attorney General Phill Kline, and Mark Parkinson, former Kansas Republican Party chairman, became Governor Kathleen Sebelius’ lieutenant governor running mate.

He said these victories demonstrated the party is willing to broaden its base and strive for common ground.

“The whole country is looking at you,” he said. “You did a great thing here for the Democrats, but you did a better thing for the people of Kansas and the public interest. You did a great thing by broadening

your base and bringing in these people who were active members of the Republican party and trying to find common ground and common solutions.

“When you and all those party switchers won, I was shameless,” Clinton said. “I talked about Kansas all over America.”

He said in this last election, all the American people gave the Democrats was a chance.

“They did not give us a mandate. They gave us a chance,” Clinton said. “Make no mistake, people hire us to ‘do.’ Not to do perfect. Not to never make a mistake. They know that a lot of these things aren’t easy or somebody would have done them already.”

Clinton said Republicans suffered defeat in the 2006 elections because “they put ideology over evidence” and urged Democrats to work on fixing the problems.

During his speech, Clinton focused on the economy, energy and health care as well as the role Kansas could play in the development of alternative fuels and reforming health care.

“I believe this country has some very big challenges about how we relate to the rest of the world and how we deal with the big threats to our security,” Clinton said. He said these threats go beyond terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and par-

ticularly include climate change and the fact that the country is running out of a lot of important resources.

Clinton discussed the potential Kansans had in the development of new energy sources, such as ethanol from crops and crop residue and wind resources.

He said ethanol must be widely-produced and distributed over a fairly short area because it can’t be put in pipelines. “That’s good,” he said. “It’s going to help us revive rural America.”

“Kansas is also one of the windiest places in America,” Clinton said. “There’s money here. This whole challenge is ready-made for a place like Kansas.”

Clinton also urged his captive audience to follow the money trail in the health care system.

Clinton noted that there are four percent fewer working families with health care insurance today than when he left office. There has been, however, a 32 percent increase in employment in health care companies.

“Why do they need 32 percent more people to insure 4 percent fewer people?” Clinton asked.

Democratic Congresswoman Nancy Boyda (who defeated five-term incumbent Jim Ryun) did not attend Washington Days as she was visiting Iraq. Clinton was glad

Boyda was in Iraq this early in her service, “listening to our men and women in uniform, looking at what’s happening on the ground, showing her concern for them, and their mission and trying to figure out what we should do to bring them home as quickly as we can.”

The last time the 42nd President was in Kansas was May 2004 when he was the inaugural speaker in the Dole Institute of Politics’ Dole Lecture Series at the University of Kansas’ Allen Fieldhouse.

Clinton was the first Democratic President since Franklin D. Roosevelt to win a second term.

His two terms saw the lowest unemployment rate in recent times, the lowest inflation rate in 30 years, the highest home ownership rate in American history, lower crime rates throughout the country and fewer Americans on welfare.

After his lecture, Clinton’s tie was autographed and auctioned off.

The winning bidder took home the prize for \$26,000. Those in attendance spent \$125 each for a chance to spend the evening with the former President. Clinton helped the Democratic party raise an estimated \$200,000.

Clinton also spoke at Kansas State University earlier that afternoon as part of the 148th annual Landon Lecture.



BRANDIE JOHNSON/THE EDGE
Former United States President Bill Clinton delivers the keynote address for the Kansas Democratic Party’s annual Washington Days in Topeka on March 2.